

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

During the Easter holidays I told the people in my constituency what had been done. I think the first carload of produce sent from Ontario was shipped from my constituency, and when the people were told what had been done, they were dismayed to think that the government would act in this way with the funds of the treasury of Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: No notes were taken for contributions.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): The government is sending out the people's money and notes are being taken. Upon my return I was surprised to find that a statute had been passed by the legislature of Saskatchewan legally incorporating the commission in Saskatchewan appointed by the Minister of Agriculture or by the federal government to carry out the provisions of the agreement which had been entered into for the relief of those people. I appeal to every hon. member, and I am surprised to see my good friend the Minister of Finance, the man who has the disposition of the money, sitting there smiling as he is doing after he and all the other ministers that have been present have not had a word to say during the discussion of what the ex-Minister of Agriculture has said. If the Minister of Finance wishes to say a word I shall give him an opportunity.

Mr. RHODES: I was smiling just because my hon. friend was asserting with such vehemence that the Saskatchewan commission was appointed by the federal government; he ought to know that it was appointed by the Saskatchewan legislature. I was smiling because of his absolute assurance that he was right when he happens to be quite wrong.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): Did the Minister of Agriculture not have to appoint the commission?

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): I have not the privilege of referring to the words of the Minister of Agriculture and the Prime Minister, I see, is as ready as anybody else to take advantage of an evasion if he can; but if the Minister of Agriculture did not appoint the commission, according to his own words on the floor of this house, he certainly made the recommendations. The government know that promissory notes are being taken from these farmers who have been burned out for three successive years. This is too serious a matter for anyone to regard it with levity. In my section of the country there is not one individual to whom I have spoken who does not think this is an unheard-of act. If the federal

[Mr. T. McMillan.]

government are taking no responsibility in the matter they are washing their hands of a responsibility which is theirs, because the money is coming from the federal treasury and according to the Prime Minister's own words, promissory notes are being taken for it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): Do not think for a moment it is carried. The Prime Minister told us in the house yesterday that this money had been loaned to the province of Saskatchewan. Therefore we ought to know whether this money is going to be returned to the federal treasury or whether, when these promissory notes are paid, the proceeds will remain in the hands of the Saskatchewan government. Is it to be a free gift from the treasury of the Dominion of Canada to the treasury of Saskatchewan and are these people not to receive the money handed out as it were, in a free manner? We have been told that we should try to help the needy in this country. If there be one thing more than another which the members of the House of Commons ought to do, and do unanimously, it is to see that those unfortunate people of Saskatchewan who have had absolute crop failures for three successive years, are put on their feet.

Mr. MANION: Why not sit down and give them a chance to get some help?

Mr. PORTEOUS: Just sit down and give them a chance.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): I am surprised at my good friend the hon. member for North Grey, because just the other day when I was talking to him on this same matter, what was his reply? He said: I had no idea this was being done with those poor people. Yet when this matter is being discussed on the floor of parliament, I am surprised he displays such partisanship.

Mr. PORTEOUS: Who is to pay these notes if the people of Saskatchewan do not?

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): Who is to pay them? We as members of the opposition say that these people should receive this as a free gift just as was the case when the people of Ontario and Quebec sent carload after carload of relief to western Canada. We do not look for anything in return for that; it was a free gift to the people of Saskatchewan. As I say, when that is the case in regard to relief handed out by the people of Ontario and Quebec to the western provinces, when it comes to a question of the government of Canada paying out money from the public